

A New *Polypodium* from Ecuador

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This new *Polypodium* was discovered in a fine South American collection sent in by Mrs. Ynes Mexía for identification.

POLYPODIUM basale Maxon, sp. nov.

Rhizoma erectum, 5–10 mm. longum, ca. 5 mm. diam., apice dense paleaceum, paleis confertis, ferrugineis, lanceolato-lingulatis, ca. 2 mm. longis, prope basim rotundam 0.3–0.5 mm. latis, apice attenuatis, tenuiter longe-ciliatis, ciliis paucis, ferrugineis, ca. 0.13 mm. longis; folia 3–5, cespitosa, 9–15 cm. longa; stipites 5–10 mm. longi, ca. 0.3 mm. diam., tenuiter castaneo-setosi, pilis fragilibus, ca. 1 mm. longis; laminae ligulatae, 8–14 cm. longae, 6–9 mm. latae, basim versus subabrupte angustatae, ad infimum anguste alatae, apice attenuatae, profunde pinnatifidae, ubique tenuiter castaneo-setosae, pilis patentibus, ca. 1 mm. longis, rhachi castanea tenui sursum immersa; segmenta 35–50 juga, patentia, oblonga, 3.5–4.5 mm. longa, ca. 2 mm. lata (basi leviter dilatata excepta), latere utroque ala ca. 0.5 mm. lata conjuncta, integra, tenere herbacea, subtus hinc inde pilis glandulosis albidis furcatis minutis praedita; venae simplices, mediae, immersae; sori solitarii, rotundi, 1.5 mm. diam., rhachi contigui, venae basi decurva siti; sporangia annulo articulis ca. 14 formato cincta, sporis triplanatis papillosis, ca. 35 μ diam.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 1,691,351, collected near Puyo, Province of Napo-Pastaza, Ecuador, altitude 400 meters, on trunks in dense forest, February 18, 1935, by Mrs. Ynes Mexía (no. 6930).

[The above description was written by the late Dr. William R. Maxon. It is only one of a number of novelties that he never got around to publishing. The species belongs to the group known as *Xiphopteris*, but it is not referable to any of the species treated by E. B. Copeland in his paper "The American Species of *Xiphopteris*."¹ In Dr. Copeland's key it would run to *X. cookii* Maxon, but that is surely different by its non-ciliate rhizome scales. The alliance is probably with *Polypodium taenifolium* Jenman, which differs primarily in having the vein of the segment forked, a character with perhaps not quite the importance assigned to it by Maxon and Copeland. In this species the vein is simple, but the position of the sorus on the distal side of the vein at its base indicates an incipient branch. The generic distinctness of *Xiphopteris* is debatable.—C. V. Morton.]

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¹ THIS JOURNAL 42: 41–52, 93–110. 1952.